

In the Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A method of stripping an optical fiber, the method comprising steps consisting in:

- locally and mechanically removing a portion of the outer covering of the fiber by cutting off a shaving of the covering;

- placing a chemical solvent on the periphery of the location of the fiber wherein said shaving has been removed; and

- mechanically removing the covering(s) weakened in this way; and

-wherein said method further comprises the steps consisting in making an incision in the covering of the fiber, slightly outside the previously stripped zone, using a blade that is positioned perpendicularly to the axis of the fiber, and in eliminating the covering segment defined in this way.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of locally and mechanically removing a portion of the outer covering of the fiber is a step of cutting off a shaving of the covering.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of locally and mechanically removing a portion of the outer covering of the fiber is implemented using a blade extending at an angle of less than 30° relative to the axis or 0-0 of the fiber.

4. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fiber is positioned in a precision V-shape.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5\_1, further comprising the step which consists in establishing relative rotation between the blade and the fiber, prior to eliminating the defined of covering.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5\_1, further comprising making two incisions in the covering of the fiber respectively at each end of the previously stripped zone.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5\_1, wherein the step of eliminating the incision-defined segment(s) of covering includes the step of mechanically moving said segment towards the center of the stripped zone, e.g. by urging it by means of the cutting blade.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5\_1, wherein the step of removing the segment defined by an incision comprises depositing a chemical solvent.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5\_1, wherein each blade used is positioned accurately so as to avoid touching the assembly constituted by the core and the cladding of the fiber.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5 1, further comprising a step of mechanically removing a portion of fiber covering that has previously been weakened by chemical etching, by using a jet of dry air.
12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5 1, further comprising a step of mechanically removing a portion of covering previously etched by chemical solvent, by using a brush dipped in ethanol.
13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim-5 1, further comprising the step of mechanically removing a portion of fiber covering previously weakened by chemical etching, by using an ultrasound bath.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. - 55. (Withdrawn).